Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 01768 142117Z ACTION SCSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0300

UNCLAS MEXICO 1768

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: CASC

SUBJ: W/W: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: TELEGRAPHIC MONEY ORDERS

REF: 77 STATE 000364

1. EMBASSY'S CITIZENS' CONSULAR SERVICES BRANCH IS AWARE OF ONLY ONE RECENT CASE IN WHICH FUNDS TELEGRAPHED TO MEXICO FROM THE UNITED STATES WERE NOT IMMEDIATELY RELEASED TO AMCIT ADDRESSEE. EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE TELEPHONED TELEGRAFOS INTERNACIONALES (TI) TO INVESTIGATE THE REASONS FOR THE DELAY IN ARRIVAL OF FUNDS TELEGRAPHED 2 OR 3 DAYS EARLIER, AND WAS TOLD THAT TI HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE BANCO DE MEXICO, THE BANKING ARM OF THE MEXICAN TREASURY, TO SUSPEND PAYMENT ON ALL INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDERS UNTIL THE PESO HAD STABILIZED SOMEWHAT. ADDRESSEE RECEIVED FUNDS AFTER 2-3 DAY PERIOD OF SUSPENSION.

2. IN AT LEAST THREE RECENT CASES, INCLUDING THE ABOVE, DESTITUTE AMCITS HAVE COME TO THE EMBASSY SEEKING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WHILE WAITING FOR TELEGRAPHED FUNDS TO ARRIVE. CCS IS NOT CERTAIN WHETHER ALL DELAYS ARE ATTRIBUTABLE TO REASONS CITED ABOVE. IN ANY EVENT, CCS FOUND IT NECESSARY TO CALL U.S. SENDER REQUESTING THAT ADDITIONAL FUNDS BE TELEGRAPHED -- TO SCS IN THE DEPARTMENT RATHER THAN TO MEXICO CITY -- UPON ASSURANCES THAT PREVIOUSLY REMITTED FUNDS WOULD BE RETURNED BY TI AFTER A MAXIMUM UNCLASSIFIED

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OF 30 DAYS. UPON NOTIFICATION THAT FUNDS HAD BEEN RECEIVED IN SCS, EMBASSY GRANTED REPATRIATION/SUBSISTENCE LOANS.

3. CCS WILL CONTINUE TO CLOSELY WATCH SITUATIONS WHICH ARE BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION IN WHICH IT TAKES CONSIDERABLY LONGER THAN 24 HOURS FOR TELEGRAPHED FUNDS TO REACH MEXICO

CITY, AND WILL REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT IF IT APPEARS THAT THIS TYPE OF SITUATION IS BECOMING THE RULE RATHER THAN THE EXCEPTION. IN THE MEANTIME, CCS WISHES TO RETAIN THE OPTION OF USING SCS/TRUST PROCEDURES TO FACILITATE ITS ASSISTANCE TO AMCITS IN FINANCIAL DISTRESS. THOMPSON

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